

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Office of the Administrative
Law Judge
United States Coast Guard

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5720

November 22, 2019

Andrew Free
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 76966
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

RE: DHS FOIA APPEAL 2019-HQAP-00385

Dear Mr. Free:

This letter concerns your appeal of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Final Response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 2019-HQFO-01020 (designated as 2019-HQAP-00385 on appeal). On October 25, 2019, the undersigned issued a letter remanding the request to DHS and instructing it to process your request. On November 21, 2019, DHS issued a final response informing you it "conducted a comprehensive search of files within the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) for records that would be responsive to your request. Unfortunately, we were unable to locate or identify any responsive letters." Therefore, DHS complied with the undersigned's remand order.

Since DHS complied with the undersigned's remand order, the undersigned is issuing this letter constituting **Final Agency Action** regarding this FOIA request. Thus, this letter is the final action of the Department of Homeland Security concerning your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request 2019-HQFO-01020 (designated as 2019-HQAP-00385 on appeal). Accordingly, you may now pursue the appeal in United States District Court. You may seek judicial review of this decision pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B) in United States District Court for either: (1) the district where you reside; (2) the district where the agency records are situated; or (3) the District of Columbia.

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. If you wish to contact OGIS, you may email them at ogis@nara.gov or call 1-877-684-6448.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SK' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

STUART A. KEEFE
Attorney Advisor
United States Coast Guard

Copy : FOIA Officer, DHS
Sent: Via first class mail to the above address.